

VZCZCXRO3596  
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #0128 0210400  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 210400Z JAN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8873  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8429  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0770  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5514  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 8925  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2245  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2735  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3147  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9407  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8813  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000128

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P,  
PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST YEAR IN  
OFFICE

11. LEAD STORIES: All Thursday morning papers gave top or front-page  
play to the ruling on Wednesday by the Supreme Court that it is  
unconstitutional for a municipal government to provide city-owned  
land at no charge for use as a Shinto shrine under the  
Constitution's principle of separation of state and religion.

12. "President Obama Needs to Implement His Ideas" The liberal  
Mainichi editorialized (1/21): "President Obama has changed the  
atmosphere around the world by giving a speech on a 'world without  
nuclear weapons' and achieving progress in the nuclear arms  
reduction talks with Russia. Concerning its measures to combat  
climate change, the U.S. has shifted its approach and moved toward  
international cooperation. President Obama's next challenge is to  
carry out the ideas advocated in his speeches in a consistent and  
robust manner. If the President fails to demonstrate his ability to  
do so, his popularity may drop rapidly."

13. "Concern about Weakening Leadership of President Obama" The  
liberal Asahi argued in an editorial (1/21): "There is mounting  
dissatisfaction among American voters about the lack of prospects  
for overcoming the current economic slump. The pressure on President  
Obama will likely grow as the midterm elections in November  
approach. We are concerned that the President's leadership in  
foreign policy issues might be undermined if his stance on domestic  
matters is weakened. It will be problematic if the President bends  
to the temptation of protectionism in order to secure jobs for  
American workers."

ZUMWALT